

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02625 101454Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----060452 101457Z /43

O R 101412Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7921  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUD  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2625

EXDIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, LE  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 116287, (B) JERUSALEM 1300, (C) JERUSALEM 1328

1. I CALLED ON GOL FONMIN BOUTROS MAY 10. WITHOUT REFERRING  
TO ERSKINE-KHOURY TALKS (REF B) I ASKED ABOUT CURRENT GOL  
POSITION ON TOPICS MENTIONED IN PARA 8. IN RESPONSE TO MY  
QUESTIONS, BOUTROS MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. GOL MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON. BOUTROS  
TELEPHONED ISF COMMANDER COL. AHMED AL-HAJJ IN MY PRESENCE  
AND WAS TOLD THAT THERE ARE NOW 265 LEBANESE GENDARMES SERVING  
THROUGHOUT THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LITANI, SOME OF WHOM HAD BEEN  
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SENT TO THAT AREA DURING PAST FEW DAYS. IN RESPONSE TO  
MY QUESTION, BOUTROS SAID GOL HAD NO PLANS TO SEND ANY  
LEBANESE ARMY (LAF) UNITS TO SOUTH LEBANON. HE  
MENTIONED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH UN  
SEC GEN WALDHEIM DURING LATTER'S VISIT. WALDHEIM, WHO HAD  
JUST COME FROM MEETING WITH ARAFAT, HAD ADVISED BOUTROS  
THAT IT MIGHT BE JUST AS WELL NOT REPEAT NOT TO SEND

ANY LAF SUNITS SOUTH, AT LEAST UNTIL UNIFIL FORCES WERE FULLY INSTALLED, SINCE THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. BOUTROS SAID (AND IMPLIED THAT WALDHEIM AGREED WITH THIS ANALYSIS) THAT IF ANY LAF UNITS WERE SENT SOUTH, THE PALESTINIANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ATTACK THEM. BOUTROS MENTIONED THAT PALESTINIANS ARE MAKING THINGS AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE FOR UNIFIL AND HE SAW NO REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARAFAT AND THE REJECTIONISTS IN THIS REGARD. SINCE LAF WAS CONSIDERED BY PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LEFTIST LEBANESE ALLIES TO BE AN AGENT OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS, NOT A NEUTRAL FORCE, IT WOULD BE A PARTICULAR TARGET. IF LAF WERE ATTACKED, UNIFIL FORCES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. BOUTROS SAID THAT BEFORE COMMITTING ANY UNITS OF LAF TO THE SOUTH, HE NEEDED A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF JUST WHAT UNIFIL'S REACTION WOULD BE IF LAF WERE ATTACKED.

3. POSSIBLE LEBANESE-ISRAELI MEETING. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO MEETING OF ISRAELI AND LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES IN ILMAC CONTEXT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT THEY WOULD TALK ABOUT. AFTER CHECKING WITH LAF G-2 JOHNNY ABDU, HE SAID THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN AN ILMAC MEETING FOR MORE THAN A MONTH AND THAT GOL WAS CONSIDERING CHANGING ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN NAQURA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT BEFORE ANY ILMAC MEETING TOOK PLACE, HE

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WOULD WANT TO KNOW THE AGENDA WELL IN ADVANCE SO THAT LEBANESE POSITION COULD BE PROPERLY PREPARED AND AN APPROPRIATE LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE SELECTED.

4. MEETING WITH MAJOR HADDAD. ON POSSIBLE MEETING WITH MAJOR HADDAD, BOUTROS SAID HE SAW NO PURPOSE IN SUCH A MEETING AT THIS TIME. HE SAID THAT GOL WAS ALREADY BEING SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR NOT DEALING MORE FIRMLY WITH HADDAD AND IMPLIED THAT A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING NOW WOULD IMPLY A KIND OF RECOGNITION OF HADDAD'S AUTHORITY THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT. SINCE HADDAD WAS MERELY A PUPPET OF THE ISRAELIS, BOUTROS SAID, THERE WAS NO PURPOSE IN GOL REPS MEETING WITH HIM UNTIL THEY HAD FIRST DISCUSSED MATTER WITH THE ISRAELIS. BOUTROS THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE ONE SUBJECT THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED IN ILMAC MEETING.

5. BOUTROS REFERRED TO INCIDENT MAY 9 INVOLVING NORWEGIAN UNIFIL TROOPS AND PALESTINIANS AND ASKED IF I THOUGHT NORWEGIANS WOULD PULL OUT. I SAID OUR INFORMATION INDICATED NORWEGIANS HAD GOTTEN THE BETTER OF THE FIGHTING YESTERDAY. BOUTROS AGREED BUT ASKED WHAT WILL

NORWEGIANS DO IF THE PALESTINIANS REACT AS THEY DID AGAINST THE FRENCH. I SUGGESTED NORWEGIANS MIGHT ASK UN FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THEIR MANDATE. BOUTROS SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426 ARE CLEAR; THERE IS NO NEED FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO RE-INTERPRET THEM. THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE ALSO CLEAR; HOWEVER, IF ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION OR INTERPRETATION OF UNIFIL MANDATE IS REQUIRED, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE IT. BOUTROS EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY FURTHER SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426 SINCE HE WAS CONVINCED THAT ANY SUCH MEETING WOULD LEAD TO THE AMENDMENT AND WEAKENING OF THEM. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT I ASK THE  
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DEPARTMENT IF THIS WAS ALSO USG POSITION.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN PRESENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS, WHICH IS KEEPING SARKIS FULLY OCCUPIED, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR BOUTROS TO SPEAK WITH MUCH AUTHORITY ABOUT GOL POLICY IN SOUTH LEBANON. HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER MEETINGS IN ILMAC CONTEXT MAY OFFER BEST OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN AT LEAST A LIMITED DIALOGUE WITH ISRAEL ON SOUTH LEBANON WHILE SARKIS TRIES TO FORM A NEW CABINET.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, MPOL, LE, IS, UNSC, (BOUTROS, FOUAD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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